

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2431

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, HU

SUBJ: MESTERHAZY CASE

REF: BUDAPEST 3112

1. SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ANDREWS' DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY DURING VISIT HERE DEALT WITH MESTERHAZY CASE. NAGY WENT THROUGH FAMILIAR DISCUSSION OF THEIR VIEW THIS NOT A FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASE, MESTERHAZY'S HAVING LEFT WIFE AND ZSOLT HERE IN 1956 AND JUST NOW WANTING TO GET HIM OUT, IMPOSSIBILITY OF CHANGING THEIR LAWS, SENSITIVITY OF SMALL COUNTRIES TO EXTERNAL INFLUENCES, PROBLEM OF PRECEDENT.
 2. ANDREWS EMPHASIZED THAT SON WANTED TO LEAVE, POLITICAL INTEREST CASE HAD ACQUIRED IN U.S., AND POSSIBILITY CASE COULD BE HANDLED THROUGH NORMAL PROCEDURES BY NEW APPLICATION, WHICH ZSOLT PREPARED TO FOLLOW IF THERE REASON TO BELIEVE NEW APPLICATION WOULD BE FAVORABLY ACTED ON.
 3. NAGY SAID ZSOLT POSED NO SPECIAL PERSONAL PROBLEMS; "IT WAS NOT AN IMPORTANT CASE." (I.E. HE WAS NOT A SCIENTIST OR SOMEONE WHOSE SKILLS WERE NEEDED.) ALSO AGREED HE DID WANT TO EMIGRATE. NAGY INDICATED HE THOUGHT WEST GERMANS WERE MORE ADEPT THAN WE AT HANDLING SITUATIONS OF THIS SORT, OFTEN USING PERSONAL CONTACTS BY LEADING PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER FIGURES DIRECTLY
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WITH HUNGARIAN ACQUAINTANCES IN SUCH CASES. IMPLICATION

SEEMED TO BE THAT SUCH INFORMAL CHANNELS WERE EASIER THAN OFFICIAL ONES TO OPERATE BECAUSE THEY AVOIDED STATE-TO-STATE ELEMENT.

4. NAGY'S BASIC CONCLUSION WAS THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN SOME TIME TO SEE IF SOMETHING COULD WORK OUT (I.E. FREE OF FURTHER DIRECT EFFORTS ON OUR PART). MIGHT BE USEFUL IN MEANTIME TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ANY SENATORS INTERESTED IN MESTERHAZY HAVE HUNGARIAN CONTACTS IN CASE SUCH CHANNEL NEEDS TO BE USED LATER.

5. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH NAGY, ANDREWS ALSO TALKED WITH ZSOLT MESTERHAZY TO CONVEY GREETINGS FROM FATHER. ANDREWS WILL BE MAKING REPORT TO MESTERHAZY, SR. ON CONVERSATION. DURING INTERVIEW ZSOLT ESSENTIALLY REITERATED HIS CONTINUED INTEREST IN GOING TO U.S. AND HIS INTENTION TO MAKE NEW PASSPORT APPLICATION IF--BUT ONLY IF-- HE IS GIVEN SOME INDICATION THAT APPLICATION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

6. BELIEVE BEST THING NOW IS TO LEAVE BALL IN NAGY'S COURT FOR AWHILE.
PEDERSEN

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